

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 075309
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 075309

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE DAMASCUS INFO AMMAN,
CAIRO, TEL AVIV, USUN NEW YORK FROM BEIRUT APRIL 05:

QUOTE S E C R E T BEIRUT 1504

EXDIS

DEPT ALSO PASS USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PINS, LE, IS, SY

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. WE ARE SENDING ADDRESSEES SEPARATELY A RATHER
LONG ANALYTICAL PIECE ON SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON
WHICH HAS BEEN IN WORKS FOR SOME TIME AND WHICH WE
HAVE TO KEEP REVISING DAILY AS SITUATION ON GROUND

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CHANGES. FOLLOWING IS ATTEMPT PUT EVERYTHING INTO
FOCUS VERY BRIEFLY.

2. LEBANESE CHRISTIAN FORCES, PERHAPS PRODDED BY
ISRAELIS, EVIDENTLY DECIDED TO PUSH THROUGH
CONSOLIDATION THEIR SECURITY ZONE ALONG SOUTHERN
BORDER IMMEDIATELY AFTER SACKING OF FORMER ARMY

COMMANDER HANNA SAID. LAST WEEK THEY TOOK TAIBEH AND THREATENED THE CHAIN OF VILLAGES PARALLELING ISRAELI BORDER JUST WEST OF METULLA. THEIR APPARENT INTENT WAS TO GET IT ALL SEWED UP BEFORE NEW ARMY COMMANDER WAS ABLE, OR FORCED, TO INTERFERE.

3. SYRIANS AND FATAH, WHO HAD BEEN QUIESCENT IN AREA, HAVE APPARENTLY REACTED BY HELPING LEFTISTS RETAKE TAIBEH (AS OF THIS WRITING IT ALLEGEDLY BACK IN LCF HANDS), SYRIANS REPORTEDLY SHELLING MARJAYUN AND GIVING ARTILLERY SUPPORT TO PALESTINIANS FOR FIRST TIME.

4. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE LOCAL AGITATION ON SUBJECT, AND MANY RUMORS, SUCH AS THAT OF AIN JALOUT BRIGADE HAVING RETURNED, WHICH ARE CONFUSING PICTURE. (IRANIAN AMBASSADOR HAS JUST COME IN TO REPORT YARMOUK BRIGADE IN NABATIYEH.) QUESTION FOR US IS, HAVE SYRIANS DECIDED THAT TAIBEH (WHICH CONTROLS WATER DISTRIBUTION IN THAT AREA) IS RED LINE FOR LCF? OR DO THEY HAVE SOME NEW ACTION PLAN FOR AREA? BELIEVE ANSWER LIES IN DAMASCUS, NOT HERE. PARKER UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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